

**March 6th, 2023**

Written testimony submitted to the Connecticut General Assembly Housing Committee in support of HB 6633: AN ACT CONCERNING A NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLANS FOR MUNICIPALITIES TO INCREASE AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

Dear Representative Luxenberg, Senator Moore, and members of the Housing Committee:

My name is Jermaine Otis Woodard Jr. I am a proud resident of Hartford, CT. I am a devoted congregant to Asylum Hill Congregational Church, where I also serve as Baritone soloist/Section Leader to the Sanctuary Choir. My congregation is a member of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA), a broad-based organization of 49 faith institutions working together on this issue.

I am writing in support of HB 6633. This bill will make our suburbs more inclusive places to live and contribute to economic growth and revitalization of our cities. Modeled after successful legislation in New Jersey and informed by Raj Chetty's research on economic opportunity, this bill has the potential to generate over:

- ★ 240,000 units of sorely needed market rate and affordable units over 10 years
- ★ 63,000 jobs (full time equivalents sustained for ten years)
- ★ \$9.8 Billion in state and local tax revenue
- ★ \$47 Billion in income for Connecticut residents

As a person of color, staunch spiritual being, and proud progeny of my ancestors – it is morally obligatory to dismantle the barriers that have caused and sustained racial and economic segregation. This bill is not only the right thing to do to address Connecticut's affordable housing and housing segregation crises, it is also the smart thing to do to boost our economy overall, especially as we emerge from a global health pandemic. This bill provides a set of tools and concrete laws that ensure our zoning and planning systems are fair and equitable. For all these reasons, I support Fair Share Planning and Zoning.

With grace from a concerned Hartfordite,

***Jermaine Otis Woodard Jr.***

Hartford, CT 06106